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CLAIMS

1. Winch system comprising a retaining device (1) for a cable (4), comprising a drum (2) for containing at least two windings of the cable on the casing face (13) thereof, said drum being mounted on bearings such that it can rotate, characterised in that the distance from the casing face of said drum to the axis of rotation (12) of said bearings varies around the periphery of said drum, characterised in that said winch system comprises a cable storage having a winding/unwinding drum (7) separate from said retaining device.
2. Winch system according to Claim 1, wherein at least one location on the periphery of the casing face is essentially coincident with the axis of rotation of said bearing.
3. Winch system according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said casing face is circular cylindrical.
4. Winch system according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the drum is driven by a motor (10).
5. Winch system according to one of the preceding claims, wherein grooves (3) for accommodating the cable have been made in said casing face.
6. Winch system according to one of the preceding claims wherein the surface of the casing face is provided with means to obtain more friction between the casing face and the cable.
7. Winch system according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said drum is designed to accommodate a stock of cable.
8. Winch system according to one of the preceding claims comprising braking means.

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9. Tug having a winch device with a winch system according to one of Claims 1-7, wherein the cable release point/pick-up point with respect to said boat can be adjusted over 360° in an essentially horizontal plane.

10. Tug according to Claim 9, wherein the axis of said drum in the unloaded state is essentially vertical.

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